

Version of Amended Claims With Markings to Show Changes Made:

4. (Twice Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a serine/threonine kinase, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule consists [consisting] of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a nucleotide sequence that encodes a serine/threonine kinase [protein] comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (b) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:1; and
- (c) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:3, [; and]
- [(d) a nucleotide sequence that is completely complementary to a nucleotide sequence of (a)-(c).]

24. (Amended) A process for producing a [polypeptide] serine/threonine kinase, the process comprising culturing the host cell of claim 9 under conditions sufficient for the production of said serine/threonine kinase [polypeptide], and recovering said serine/threonine kinase [polypeptide] from the host cell culture.

28. (Amended) A vector according to claim 8, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is inserted into said vector in proper orientation and correct reading frame such that a serine/threonine kinase comprising the amino acid sequence of [the protein of] SEQ ID NO:2 may be expressed by a cell transformed with said vector.

REMARKS**Rejection of claims 4, 8-9, 24, and 27-29 under 35 USC §112, 1st paragraph**

The Examiner has rejected claim 4 and, consequently, claims 8-9, 24, and 27-29, which are dependent thereon, for lacking written description and not providing enablement to support a claim to all possible polynucleotides encoding any possible polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:2, some of which may have unknown biological function.

In response, Applicants have amended claim 4, as well as claims 24 and 28, to clarify the claim language to indicate that the intended nucleic acid molecules are nucleic acid molecules that encode a serine/threonine kinase protein comprising SEQ ID NO:2, rather than all possible polynucleotides encoding all possible polypeptides comprising SEQ ID NO:2.

Additionally, claim 4(d) has been re-written as dependent claim 30 (together with claims 31-36, dependent thereon) because a sequence complementary to a nucleotide sequence of claim 4 may not necessarily encode a protein, as called for by the amended preamble of claim 4.

Conclusions

By way of the above amendments, claims 4, 24, and 28 have been amended, and claims 30-36 have been added. As such, claims 4, 8-9, and 24-36 are currently pending.

Claims 25-26 have been allowed, as indicated in the Office Action mailed January 29, 2002.

Support for the amendments to the claims can be found at least in the specification, the old claims, and in Figures 1-3. The amendments to the claims add no new subject matter and their entry is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application and claims are in condition for allowance, and request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objections and rejections. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (240) 453-3812 should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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